

Husband: **WILLIAM SWIFT**
 Born: 15 April 1589 Bocking, Braintree, Essex, England
 Married: c1618 England
 Died: 7 March 1643 Sandwich, Sandwich Township, Plymouth Colony
 Buried:
 Father: *WILLIAM or ROBERT SWIFT*
 Mother: *JANET ELIZABETH WILSON or BRIDGET HASTINGS*

Wife: **JOAN SISSON**
 Born: 1586 Sussex, England
 Died: 26 November 1663 Sandwich, Barnstable Township, Plymouth Colony
 Buried:
 Father: EDWARD SISSON
 Mother: JOAN CHAPMAN

Issue:	Born:	Place:
1. HANNAH SWIFT	c1620	Bocking, Braintree, Essex, England
2. JAMES SWIFT	c1624	Bocking, Braintree, Essex, England
3. WILLIAM SWIFT	April 1627	<i>South London, Surrey, England</i>
4. ESTHER SWIFT	(ba) 28 May 1629	Bermondsey, Surrey, England
5. SARAH SWIFT	(ba) 7 August 1631	Bermondsey, Surrey, England

WILLIAM may be the son of either ROBERT or WILLIAM SWIFT. Complicating this is the fact that these two may be brothers as WILLIAM SWIFT and ELIZABETH MASON had a son named WILLIAM and another named ROBERT.

WILLIAM and JOAN may have had more children; I have chosen the most likely possibilities based on records, timing, location, &c. Bocking was a village near Braintree and was absorbed into Greater Braintree. Bocking was served by two churches: the *Church of Saint Mary the Virgin* and the *Church of Saint Peter*. It seems that WILLIAM and JOAN with their two children moved north to Bermondsey in the Hundred of Brixton in the County of Surrey. Most likely they lived in the vicinity of the *Church of Saint Mary Magdalen* where WILLIAM, ESTHER, and SARAH were baptized. Bermondsey is now in the Borough of South London. JAMES SWIFT was buried at *Saint Mary Magdalen* on 8 May 1625. On 8 September 1631 SARAH was buried at *Saint Mary Magdalen*. There is also the possibility that this was a second marriage for both WILLIAM and JOAN which could explain the marriage of WILLIAM SWIFT and JOAN, widow of ROGER DIMBLEBY on 3 January 1626 at the *Church of Saint Mary Magdalen*. If true, the mother of HANNAH and JAMES was not JOAN and this could explain the JOHN SWIFT who was baptized at on 26 June 1622 and buried there 3 days later and MARY SWIFT baptized 21 August 1625 and buried there 2 weeks later on 4 September.

They moved to the Massachusetts Bay Colony around 1633. WILLIAM is listed as one of the proprietors of Watertown in 1634 which was founded in 1630. Having more than one lot, it is thought he had been living in the area for a couple of years by that time. In the *Great Dividends of the Town Lands* recorded on 25 July 1636 he drew lot 14 containing 40 acres. About six months

later he drew a 5 acre lot at *Beaver Brook Plowlands*. He purchased land a few miles inland and built a house at Sudbury. In 1637 they moved to Sandwich two years before it was incorporated as a separate township. There they bought the largest farm in the area, containing 250 acres, and WILLIAM is reported by some to have been a glassmaker of some repute in Plymouth Colony. He is reported to have been involved in a lawsuit in Salem during 1638. In 1642 he served in LIEUTENANT JOHN BLACKMER'S Company.



WILLIAM probably died in December 1642 as a 4-page inventory of his estate was registered with the Court in January 1643. His personal estate was valued at £72.11.1 and included two *shuites of apparell*, one *coate*, two *ruffbands* and four *playne bands*, two *muskets*, two *bandeliers*, a *french bill* and *cosset*, a *hallbeard*, and a *parcell of bookes*. A *bandolier* held the gunpowder and shot for the muskets; a *halberd* (right) was a two-handed pole with an axe blade and spike at one end while the *bill* (left) was a similar weapon with a hook and spike. Every



freeman had to have several weapons. A *band* was worn around the neck and was ruffled or plain. Given these weapons the WILLIAM SWIFT who was able to bear arms in Sandwich in 1643 could be a reference to the subject, since neither his exact date of death nor the day in January when the inventory was registered is certain; or, it could be his son of the same name.¹

As far as real estate, WILLIAM had the farm in Sandwich valued at £10 and the house at Sudbury, 20 miles west of Boston that was mortgaged to a MR. BURTON on which he owed £20.10.² The Sudbury property is said to have been sold on 28 June 1641 by some (Suff. De. and Col. Rec. vol.1). He was indebted to 18 people for more than £225, leaving the estate insolvent. On 7 March 1643 *Letters of Administration are graunted to Joane Swyft of Sandwich to administer upon her husbandes estate and to pay the debts as far as the estate will amount unto, by equal proporcons, and is bound to the Gov. and Assistantes to do it, & Daniell Wing with her*. The Plymouth Colony Court record of 11 March 1643 (dated as 1642) noted that JOAN SWIFT, the administratrix of her husband WILLIAM'S estate has made some payments on the debts owed and that she will continue to do so as the amounts due the estate come in, apportioning payments as required.³ No small feat, JOAN overcame the difficult financial mess she found herself in. The 250 acre farm was still in the family over two centuries later being owned by SHADRACH FREEMAN SWIFT in 1887.

According to the *Annals of the Wing Family of America, Incorporated* (p.234) JOANE was a prominent person in Sandwich, she being esteemed wealthy, and is the only woman who seems to have been accorded the privilege of uniting with the men in calls to pastors and like public business. In 1651 JOAN contributed £4 to the purchase price of £17 for land the town of Sandwich was selling to EDMUND FREEMAN which was recorded in the colonial records on 20 August 1651.⁴ JOAN is in the records again on 1 March 1664 when THOMAS HINCKLEY, an Assistant to the Governor, is authorized by the Court to administer an oath to the witnesses of the last Will and Testament of MISTRIS JONE SWIFT, deceased.⁵ Her Will:

The 12th day of the 8th month, 1662.

I Jone Swift of Sandwich, being sicke of body, but of perfect memory, do make my last Will.

I do give unto Daniel Winges, his sons Samuel and John, a mare foal of a year old.

Item, I give unto my grandchild Hannah Swift, the old mare, if she be alive, if not, the next to her.

Item, I give unto my grandchild Experience Allen, a chest with drawers and my Bible.

*Item, I give unto my two grandchildren **Hannah Swift** and **Experience Allen**, all my linen and my pewter, to be equally divided between them.*

*Item, I give unto **Mary Darbey** my wearing clothes.*

*Item, I give unto **Hannah Winge** the Elder my best hat and forty shillings to her daughters, to be divided amongst them.*

*Item, I give unto **Jedediah Allen** and **Experience Allen** the third part of my Estate, this house and garden being part of the third;*

*I give unto my son **William's** children, each of them a mare foal;*

*my debts being discharged, and my funeral being paid, I give the rest of my Estate to my son **William**, whom I make my Executor.*

*I make **John Dincant** and **Benjamin Hammond** my overseers of this my will and give to them twenty shillings apiece.*

*Witnessed: **John Dincant** and **Benjamin Hammond**.*

Joan Swift

JOAN survived her husband 20 years and died in Sandwich on 26 November 1663. Her personal estate was valued at £105.6. The HANNAH and DANIEL WINGE named in the Will are her daughter and son-in-law. Two WINGE grandsons are names as are two ALLEN grandchildren.

ISSUE

1. HANNAH SWIFT: married DANIEL WINGE on 5 November 1641 at Sandwich. She died there on 1 December 1664.
 - a. SAMUEL WINGE: named in the 1662 Will of his grandmother JOAN.
 - b. JOHN WINGE: named in the 1662 Will of his grandmother JOAN.
2. JAMES SWIFT: buried at *Saint Mary Magdalen* on 8 May 1625.
3. WILLIAM SWIFT: he appears throughout the records; they have been extracted and can be found in the Notes section. He married RUTH or ROSE TOBEY in Sandwich during 1648. He died there on 7 January 1708. See NOTES below.
4. **ESTHER SWIFT**: baptized on 28 May 1629 at the Church of Saint Mary Magdalen, now in the Bermondsey section of the London borough of Southwark. Located on the south bank of the River Thames in the Hundred of Brixton in County Surrey at the time, it is close to Tower Bridge.⁶ She married **RALPH ALLEN** who is usually designated as *Junior* in records to distinguish from an older RALPH ALLEN in the same community that was older.
5. SARAH SWIFT: buried on 8 September 1631 at *Saint Mary Magdalen*.

NOTES FOR WILLIAM SWIFT JUNIOR

1643: Capable of bearing arms, Sandwich. (NEHGR, 4:257)

PCR, V3:

3 June 1652: absent for grand jury duty; fined. (p10)

8 June 1655: appointed Surveyor of the Highways for Sandwich. (p79)

JANE, servant of WM SWIFT, presented for performing fornication by her own admission. (p82)

4 Oct 1655: JANE POWELL, servant of WM SWIFT, says she fornicated with EDWARD STURGIS'S servant, the Irishman DAVID *OGILLIOR*. She stated she was allured thereunto by him going for water one evening, believing they were to be married, being that she was in a sad and miserable condition from her hard service, in need of clothes, and being discontent. She expressed great sorrow for her evil and was cleared and sent home. (p91)

6 June 1660: Appointed Constable of Sandwich. (p188)

PCR, V4:

1 March 1664: On jury for SAMUEL HOWLAND of Duxbury charged in the death of WILLIAM HOUSE on 25 October 1663 at High Pine on Salt House Beach in Sandwich by the *discharging of a fowling peece on the body of WILLIAM HOWSE, late of Sandwich*, whereby the said HOUSE was *wounded, languised and ymedietely died*. Verdict: not guilty of willful murder; House received the fatal shot as the gun went off while on SAMUEL HOWLAND'S shoulder. (pp49, 50)

3 June 1668: Appointed Constable of Sandwich (p180)

PCR, V5:

1669-71, WILLIAM SWIFT SENIOR is one of three Celect men or Selectmen

1674-75, for Sandwich.

1677-78 (p19, 35, 56, 143, 164, 230, 257)

5 July 1669: Authorized to keep an ordinary at Sandwich. (p23)

29 Oct 1672: WM wins lawsuit in the Court of Celect Men of Barnstable against OLD JOHN alias MOPES, Indian, who owes £6 of tar at Sandwich. WM releases JEDIDIAH LUMBARD from engagement with him as security for payment from OLD JOHN. (pp105-6)

1673, 1676-78: Deputy to Court (p135, 196, 214, 231, 256)

13 Jul 1677: Apptd to Committee to hear all matters concerning debts from colony to all persons, balance accounts between towns concerning the late war that have not been balanced; towns to pay for their time and the expenses paid by colony. (p242)

29 May 1670: Freeman of Sandwich (p276)

June 1670: Wm in debt £4 to Court. (p130)

PCR, V8:

1643: Freeman in Sandwich. (p192)

1657: Took Oath of Fidelity at Sandwich (p179)

Barnstable Town Records (p13) show WILLIAM SWIFT contributing to the building of a public building in Barnstable which was recorded on 29 May 1654.

Sandwich Town Records do not name the mother but Rose is assumed to be the mother. The following children of William have been identified:

Issue

Hannah Swift	11 March 1651
William Swift	28 August 1654
Ephraim Swift	7 June 1656
Elizabeth Swift	29 December 1680
Johanah Swift	7 July 1684
Daniel Samuel Swift	9 April 1686
Ephraim Swift	16 December 1688
Maria Swift	7 April 1659 Married Shubell Smith 6 February 1677
Marcy Smith	3 January 1678
Susanna Smith	16 January 1680
Abagail Smith	2 February c1686

Maria died 5 March 1682-84

Samuel Swift

10 August 1662

Senior died 25 May 1730

William Swift*

24 January 1679

Samuel Swift Junior

*William is listed as son of William but this may have been an error in transcription. The correction being Samuel is the son of William, being born 3 years after his sister Maria. It was Samuel who, at 17-years-old, had a son named William. While having children 17 years apart is not uncommon for a man and even for women, the recording of the two together is an anomaly.

¹ "List of those able to bear Arms in New Plymouth," *New England Historical and Genealogical Record*, 4:257 (Boston, New England Historic, Genealogical Society; 1850). Available at [Archive.org](#).

² "Abstract of the Earliest Wills," *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, 4:173 (1850) Available at [Archive.org](#).

³ Nathaniel B. Shurtleff (ed). Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England. Court Orders, Volume 2, 1641 – 1651 (Boston: William White; 1855) pp. 54 - 55. Digital version at [Archive.org](#).

⁴ David Pulsifer (ed). Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England. Deeds &c 1, Volume 12, 1620 – 1651 (Boston: William White; 1861) p. 212. Digital version at [Archive.org](#).

⁵ Nathaniel B. Shurtleff (ed). Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England. Court Orders, Volume 4, 1661 – 1668 (New York: AMS Press, 1968; reprint of Boston: William White; 1855) p. 55. Digital version at [Archive.org](#).

⁶ Church of England Parish Registers, 1538-1812. London, England: London Metropolitan Archives, St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey, Composite register: baptisms Mar 1603 - Dec 1642, marriages Apr 1603 - Dec 1642, burials Mar 1603 - Dec 1642, P71/MMG/003